

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • March/April 2016



When you look out your kitchen window or step out your front door, what do you notice first? If it's warm, you might smell nectar in the breeze, or see petals of pink, blue and yellow swaying gently as bees and butterflies fly among them. Perhaps you hear goldfinch twitters and bluebird warbles. Nature provides delight in such moments with sensory fulfillment.

What brings so many sights, sounds and fragrances? The quote, "If you plant it, they will come," comes to mind. As we walk around the gardens of the Discovery Center and Burr Oak Woods Nature Center (our home away from home), we are greeted as old friends by the many different native plants. They mark seasonal changes. Spring greets us with the small sleepy leaves of the mint plants. Pink rose verbena buds wait to pop open. Purple-green leaves of Virginia bluebells uncurl from the earth, while witch hazel flowers beat them all by blooming in February.

At Burr Oak Woods, Naturalist Lisa Richter has tended the gardens for many years. She makes subtle changes and gradually nurtures the design, similar to an artist with palette and canvas. This living work of art enlightens her with new aspects of nature each year. At the Discovery Center, a team of maintenance, naturalists and other resource staff work together to tend to the gardens and the bioswales in the parking lot to ensure that the plants are as inviting to the public as they are to wildlife.

This experience is available to all who visit Burr Oak Woods or the Discovery Center and those who bring native plants into their world. Join us this spring for events that celebrate planting native plants around the home.

Burr Oak Woods will host a **Naturescaping Workshop and Native**

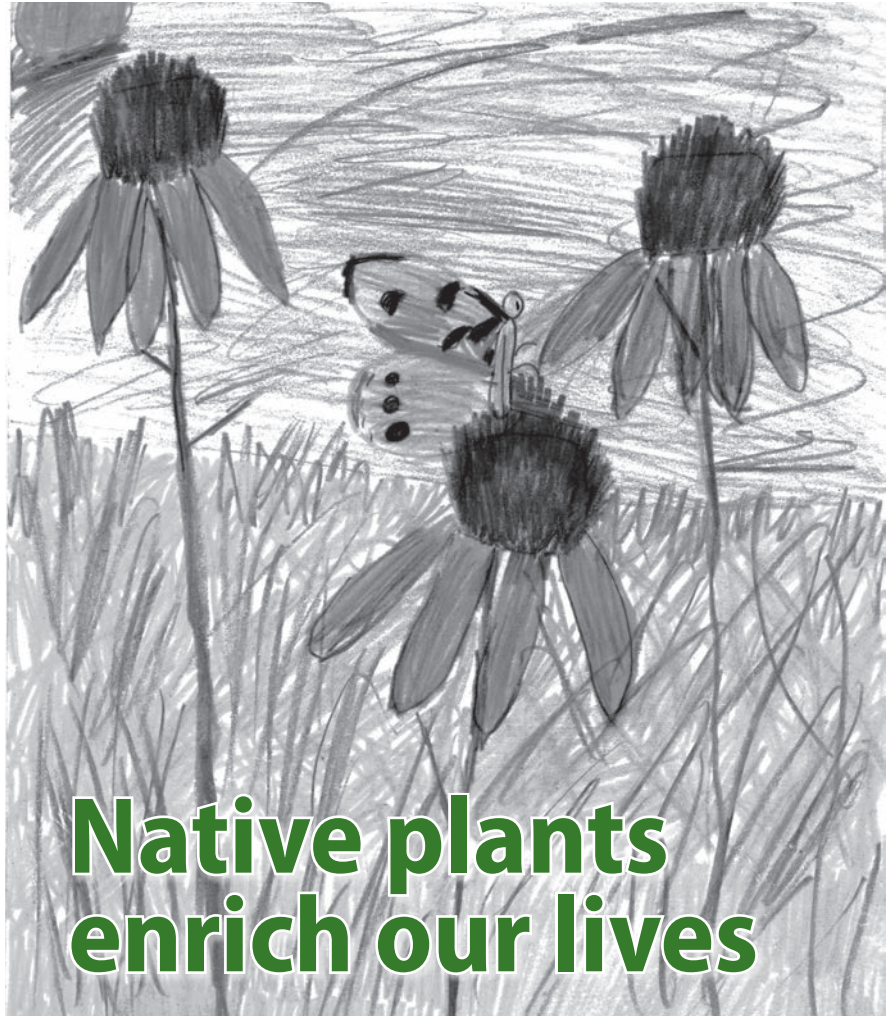


ILLUSTRATION: MACKENZIE RESCH, GRADE 4

Plant Sale on March 19. Participants at the naturescaping workshop will have the opportunity to attend three different educational sessions. Session topics include: pollinators, invasive species, native plant fairy container gardens, wild edibles, treescaping and many more. Once you learn more about these amazing natives you'll hopefully want to purchase some at the native plant sale from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. for workshop participants and 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. for the public. All workshop attendees will receive a free tree or shrub seedling, provided by MDC's George O. White State Nursery. Participants are also eligible for the PRIZE DRAWING at

the end of the workshop! To register for this program call 816-228-3766.

The Discovery Center will host **Go Native on April 16** to celebrate the art of landscaping with native plants in the home garden. From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., visitors can receive free tree, flower or grass seedlings (while supplies last), learn the best way to plant a tree and much more. Also starting at 9:30 a.m. is a native plant sale featuring some of the best native plants, shrubs and grasses for use in urban yards.

— Lisa Richter, Burr Oak Woods Naturalist
— Stacey Davis, Discovery Center Manager

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's For Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (March 4 & 18 and April 1, 15 & 29)

What is a Timberdoodle?

March 5 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM or 1–1:30 PM

Walk-in on the hour or half hour (families)

Presenting six mini-programs on the hour or half hour. There's no better sign of spring than the dance of the timberdoodle! Also known as the American woodcock, this unique bird performs an impressive courtship ritual in the skies overhead each spring. Come learn when and where to see these birds and then create a craft to take home.

Babes in the Woods: Pine Forest Exploration

March 8 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

The pine forest is a magical place to romp and discover nature with your little one. From the sweet smells to the softly muted sounds, you and your child will delight in these unique outdoor sensations.

Conservation Kids Club: The Dance of the Woodcock

March 8 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Although this dance of the American woodcock is to be considered a gateway into spring, very few get to actually witness these graceful and elusive dancers. If we are quiet, we just might get to see it!

Little Acorns: Here Comes Peter Cottontail

March 9 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

March 10 • Thursday • 11 AM–Noon

March 12 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 3–5)

We all know that mischievous rabbit, Peter Cottontail, but do you know the REAL story of our Missouri rabbits? Hop down the nature trail with Peter Cottontail and search for some of our wild rabbit friends.

Home School: Whooo Knows about Owls?

March 9 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM

or ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or

1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8, 9–11

Registration required

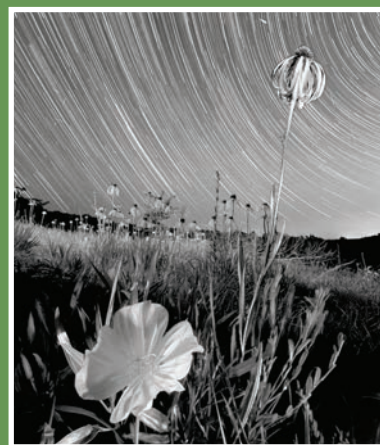
Throughout history owls have been a symbol of intuition, wisdom and change. Join us to unravel the mysteries of this night flier as we learn about its unique adaptations to the night time world.

Spring Bird Hike

March 12 • Saturday • 1:30–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

The birds are back in town! Join us for a leisurely stroll while we chat and watch for spring migrants. No experience necessary. Binoculars are available to borrow. Meet at the nature center.



Night Visions

March 12 • Saturday • 2–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Does the magic of the night sky hold you spellbound? You will not want to miss out on the chance to meet Dan Zarlenga, featured photographer in the December issue of the Missouri Conservationist. His incredible photographs of the night sky will be on display throughout March and April. He will present Night Visions in person on March 12th. See the back page to learn more about Dan Zarlenga.

Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale

March 19 • Saturday • 8 AM–12:45 PM

Registration required began Feb. 2

(adults and teens with accompanied adult)

Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources, native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on pollinators, invasive species, native plant fairy gardens, wild edibles, treescaping and many more.

The Native Plant Sale is open from 12:45–1:15 pm for workshop participants and 1:15–3:45 pm for the public.

Wild Edible Plant Identification

March 22 • Tuesday • 2–3:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

Would you like to learn how to forage for wild edible plants? Join us for an afternoon of discovery as we prepare for this season by developing our plant identification skills. A nature hike is included.

BURR OAK WOODS OPEN HOUSE March 12 • Saturday • 3:00–4:30 PM

(For all ages. No registration required) You are invited to the grand opening celebration of the new Burr Oak Woods exhibits! Join us for cake and punch and a tour of the brand new exhibits hall.

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 26 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+)

Spring is here and the toms are strutting. That can only mean one thing; spring turkey season is here! For more than 50 years, Missourians have enjoyed pursuing these large elusive birds. Join us as we explore the basics of turkey hunting, including locations, equipment, techniques and more.

Navigating with Map and GPS

March 26 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (ages 12+, ages 12–16 must be accompanied by participating adult)

Whether scouting a new hunting property or planning a weekend backpacking trip, learn how to use a topographic map and GPS together in the woods. The program will present the basics of topographic maps, coordinate systems, GPS unit setup and use.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

March 26 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

April 30 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

Frog and Toad are Friends

April 2 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (families with children ages 4–8)

The books are classic for young readers. In nature, frogs and toads may share a pond

or a puddle, but each is unique. We will look into their world to see these characters come alive as we search for frogs and toads. Kids will create a toad abode to go.

Owl Prowl

April 8 • Friday • 7:30–9:30 PM

Registration required (ages 5+)

Who rules the forest when dusk turns to night? Our amazing owls, of course! Learn about adaptations that allow owls to be great nocturnal predators, and then join us in the forest to seek out our special guests!

Little Acorns: Mother and Baby

April 9 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

April 13 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

April 14 • Thursday • 11 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Baby birds are chirping. Baby insects are buzzing. Baby mammals are nursing. Does your mom care for you the same way? I bet not! Join us as we learn and play, the baby way, by becoming some of our favorite baby animals.

Will Hike for Birds

April 9 • Saturday • 1:30–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Our woods are hopping with feathered friends everywhere. Join our friendly, bird loving naturalists for a bird hike at Burr Oak Woods. No experience necessary.

Babes in the Woods: SSSnake Awareness...

April 12 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

Your reaction to nature will shape the attitude of your child. We will introduce you and your little one to a family friendly snake and discuss the facts and myths about these slithery creatures. Knowledge can bring confidence, tolerance and deeper understanding.

Conservation Kids Club: Finding the Way

April 12 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Have you ever been lost? Explorers like to use tools such as maps and compasses to make sure they can find their way. Join us for some great fun as we learn how to read topographical maps and use a compass to keep us on track!

Home School: Spectacular Spring!

April 13 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM

for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8, 9–11

Registration required

Skip on over to learn about the amazing natural wonders of spring! With mammals scampering, flowers blooming, birds laying eggs and frogs-a-jumping there are surprises around every corner.

Family Stream Team Adventure

April 16 • Saturday • 12:30–3 PM

Registration required

(families with children ages 8+)

Have you ever wondered what Missouri Stream Teams are all about? Join us for a



hands-on program sampling our own Burr Oak Creek. We will check water chemistry, look for macroinvertebrates and explore the streambed and surrounding watershed. It is fun and science in a wet and wild way.

In Search of Wild Greens

April 19 • Tuesday • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

We will head outside at last in search of wild greens. You will not want to miss out on the chance to sample a wild and delicious, nutritious spring salad.

Scouting Wildlife Adventures Series: Scales and Fur

April 23 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (Scout groups with ages 7–17, one adult for every 6 Scouts)

Calling all Scouts! Jump into nature fun with this amazing series of programs. Each program will include meeting with a Naturalist to learn about careers in conservation, seeing live animals up-close and learning about endangered and extinct species. Reptiles, amphibians and mammals will be the focus, and we'll also head out on the trail for spontaneous nature discoveries!



Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Beginning Archery

March 5 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 10-17)

Archery has become a very popular sport amongst the public, whether for hunting or the MoNASP program in school districts. Learn more about the fundamentals



of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

Intro to Skeet

March 12 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

April 2 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time!

Basic Orienteering

March 13 • Sunday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Come join the Lake City Staff as we learn the basics of using a topographic map and compass. During this outdoor adventure, we will search for hidden treasures with our compass in hand around the Lake City complex.

Women's Firearms Safety: Phase I

March 19 • Saturday • 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (women ages 18+)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

Basic Handgun

March 26 • Saturday • 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Introduction to Pistol Cartridge Reloading

April 2 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (adults)

If you have ever been interested in reloading your own pistol brass, this is a good way to get started. We will cover many different topics of reloading including equipment, safety concerns, loading data and more.

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

April 7 • Thursday • 5–9:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

For the novice turkey hunter who would like to know more about hunting the elusive eastern wild turkey. We will discuss the how



to scout for turkeys, where they roost, use of blinds and decoys and patterning your shotgun properly. There will be range time, bring your shotgun and your favorite turkey load.

Patterning Your Shotgun

April 13 • Wednesday • 5–8:30 PM

April 17 • Sunday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Patterning your shotgun is a very important part of turkey hunting that is overlooked by many turkey hunters. We will discuss the principles of how to use different turkey shotshells and chokes to achieve the most effective pattern for your shotgun.

Basic Shotgun

April 23 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

This is an introduction to shotgun class which will focus on safe handling of firearms, types of actions, gauges, shotshell construction and chokes. Shooting stance, proper shoulder mounting and fit will be discussed in the class. There will be range time to try out these new shooting techniques.

Basic Handgun...PLUS

April 30 • Saturday • 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This course continues where the Basic Handgun course ends. The topics of discussion include purchasing and owning a firearm, ammunition facts, cleaning and storage of your firearm. We also will work more on your marksmanship skills on the range.

Take a break for spring

I guess you could say I'm a bit different and often choose to go against the grain. You could also say I march to the beat of my own drum. Truth is, I've never believed in what old 'Punxsutawney Phil' has to say. It's probably with good cause too. According to Wikipedia, the Internet encyclopedia, the famous groundhog

has only been correct about 39 percent of the time. My wife might say he's just like me.

Whether he sees his shadow or not makes little difference. It's good news either way. An early spring likely means the weather outside is already

nice. A long winter means nice weather is just around the bend. A certain truth is that every year spring will begin appearing in March. Wildlife knows this, too. Critters don't need dates on a calendar or prognostication from a groundhog.

Another certainty is that spring is a great time of the year to get outside and experience nature first hand. There is so much to enjoy. Waterfowl are migrating, flowers are blooming, birds are singing, mushrooms are popping, fish are biting, turkeys are gobbling and so much more. Make sure to take a break to enjoy spring this year. Even just a few minutes out-of-doors each day can give reprieve. If you need some ideas on additional ways you can enjoy your Missouri, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov>

– Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Creating Cartridges: Beyond the Basics

March 9 · Wednesday · 6–10 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Reloading metallic cartridges can be rewarding, but at times it can also be frustrating. There are literally thousands of different combinations of components and processes. Sometimes it's hard to know which choices to make. Join our experienced team of reloading enthusiasts as we take you beyond the basics and help you troubleshoot some common issues.

Introductions to Firearms

March 11 · Friday · 6–9 PM and

March 12 · Saturday · 8–11 AM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Staying safe around firearms requires the appropriate level of knowledge and skill combined with a positive attitude.

Join our certified firearms instructors as we explore the fun of shooting in a safe and controlled environment. This course will cover all major types of firearms and will include live fire.

Fly Fishing Basics

March 20 · Sunday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (all ages)

For many anglers fly-fishing can seem intimidating, but with an understanding of the basics you will see that it is really fairly simple. Join our experienced staff to learn more about what it takes to get started fly fishing today. Instructors will provide an overview of the equipment and casting techniques and also allow some time to practice your skills.

Intro to Turkey Hunting

April 5 · Tuesday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Turkey hunting is a great way to spend time with family and friends while enjoying nature in spring. This evening workshop is designed to teach participants how to more successfully hunt the wild turkey. We'll discuss turkey biology, hunting equipment, regulations and strategies that will make you a more confident turkey hunter.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Basic Archery

April 24 · Sunday · 8–11 AM

Registration required (all ages)

Shooting archery is a popular way to spend leisure time for millions of people. It requires patience and discipline to excel. Attend this



introductory level workshop to learn about the equipment, techniques and archery safety in a safe, controlled environment.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Burroughs Audubon Society Presents: Establishing and Growing a Purple Martin Colony

March 1 • Tuesday • 7:15 PM

These beautiful swallows need our help to maintain stable populations—don't miss this chance to learn from an expert! Andrew Burnett, Purple Martin Conservation Association and Kansas Ornithological Society member, will discuss the basics of attracting purple martins as well as how to grow and create a thriving colony using modern management methods. Martin biology will be reviewed including recent discoveries related to migration.

Scout Program

March 1 • Tuesday • Evening

April 5 • Tuesday • Evening

Registration required (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program to help your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of

10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program.

Nature Nuts Storytime

March 5 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

March 19 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Eastern Bluebirds of Missouri

March 5 • Saturday • 10:00 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Bluebirds are popular year-round residents in Missouri. They usually begin nesting the first half of March. This is perfect timing to participate in activities for all ages as we learn to identify, foster and monitor our beautiful state bird! Participants ages 10 and up will also be able to construct a bluebird house. Classes will begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required for bluebird house construction.

Paddlefish in Missouri

March 15 • Tuesday • 6 PM – 7:30 PM

Walk-in (adults only)

Paddlefish are a very unique species and have a special place in the hearts of Missouri fishermen. Come and learn about the history of the paddlefish, threats to its survival, restoration and stocking efforts, and the very special biological features of this plankton eating fish. We will also discuss the seasons and methods for catching this amazing, prehistoric fish.

Signs of Spring

March 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Many signs are popping up to let us know spring is just around the corner: spring peepers are calling, turtles are becoming active and birds are building their nests. Going on a hike is a great way to experience the many sights and sounds of spring. Come make your own hiking stick to take with you on your next adventure. Classes

to create them will begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Then come take a hike with us outside or enjoy one of our other spring-time activities inside!

Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session

March 19 • Saturday • 9 AM–1 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>.

Nature Nuts Storytime

April 2 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

April 16 • No classes being held

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Cold Blooded, Smooth Skin

April 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Missouri has 43 species of amphibians and most are active and on the move in early spring. Live amphibians including frogs, toads and salamanders will be on display. Learn about their habitats, mating calls and characteristics. Kids can participate in a frog game and make a frog hat!

Nature in Your Neighborhood Art Competition Awards Night

April 5 • Tuesday • 5:30–8 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Join us for a celebration of nature as seen through the eyes of area students. View student artwork portraying nature in their different neighborhoods, talk with some of the artists then stick around for the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Go Native for sustainable landscaping

Growing native plants is a smart way to improve the landscaping around your home. Native plants offer many more benefits than non-native species. Replacing the non-native species in your landscape with native varieties can save you time, money and headaches

for many seasons.

While native plants are well adapted to our weather, resist pests and disease, require little if any additional irrigation, the best reason for growing native plants

is that they are extremely beautiful! Billowing clumps of little bluestem, brilliant petals of purple coneflower and the bright spring flowers and stately forms of redbud and dogwood trees will draw everyone's eye to your garden. If you would like to see just how beautiful, practical and efficient native plantings can be, join us 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 16 at the Gorman Discovery Center for our **Go Native special event**. Stop by and pick up some free native seedlings.



Go Native

April 16 · Saturday · 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Are you tired of constantly watering and weeding your landscape plants? If so, try replacing those plants with native flowers and grasses. Native plants can tolerate our tough Missouri weather much better than non-native varieties. Join us for a day of learning about the wide variety of native plants that can suit your landscaping needs. While you're here, transplant and take home some native trees, grasses or flowers to add trouble free beauty to your landscape.

Native Plant Sale

April 16 · Saturday · 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

(or until sold out)

Missouri Prairie Foundation will be on site to offer native plants for sale. Partnering with Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, they will be providing a variety of native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees for purchase. If you wish to preorder for pickup on the 16th, contact Missouri Wildflowers Nursery: 573-496-3492 or e-mail mowldflrs@socket.net. A percentage of proceeds from plant sales will benefit prairie conservation in Missouri.

Wildflower Walk in the Woods

April 19 · Tuesday · 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

With wildflowers blooming, warblers singing and fogs calling, the middle of April can be the perfect time for a walk in the woods. Meet our naturalist at the Discovery Center and we will head out to explore one of Kansas City's most beautiful forests in all of its spring glory. Transportation provided.



Discover nature's spring beauty

Spring is a great time to explore the beauty of nature. As cold winter days give way to the warmth of spring, make time to get outside. Utilize your senses and discover the vibrant color of wildflowers, notice the activity of wildlife and listen to the amazing sounds of the natural world.

With so many natural resources in our backyards, parks and other wild places in the Kansas City metro area, finding the beauty of spring is only a step away.

The celebration of nature is also captured through the eyes and with the talents of young artists. During March and April, we invite you to enjoy a special student art exhibit. The student artwork on display is a reflection of how they view nature in their neighborhood.

The highlight of this art exhibit will be an awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 5.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Artists viewing

6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Awards and presentations

Artists will be available for questions prior to the awards.

Discover Nature and the Arts Summer Camp

June 6–10 · Monday–Friday

8:30 AM–4:30 PM Daily

Before and after care available beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.

Registration required (ages 9–12)

Nature and the arts go together like burgers and fries. They are great alone, but pair them together and you get something special. In this camp you will explore the plants and animals that call KC home and learn different artistic techniques to "capture" nature in the

neighborhood. You will visit a local state park, conservation area and more.

The week will culminate with a group art show and event at the Discovery Center. Arts Camp and the extended care are both free of charge.

Applications will be available April 1 at the Discovery Center and on our website, <http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter>. Applications will be accepted through April 22. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 2.

Spend a day back in time at Lake City Rendezvous

Fur trappers got together in the Rocky Mountains annually in the early 1800s for a rendezvous. The tradition continues. MDC will host the annual Lake City Rendezvous 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 9 at the Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center.

Re-enactors and outdoor enthusiasts from the Midwest gather to celebrate the early 1800s rendezvous traditions.



Hunters and trappers will show their peltry and tools of the trade. Black powder shooters gather for friendly challenges in rifle, pistol and

shotgun skills. Campers will showcase campsites and gear from a bygone era and give us a brief insight as to how life was in the past.

Blacksmiths will show how essential goods were produced before machines as they bend and form metals with hammers, brute force and heat. Activities planned also include tomahawk and knife throwing, atlatl, archery, broom making, knife making, traders, Native American teepee, wild edibles, trapping demonstrations, grass doll making, flint knapping, candle making, spinning, apple butter making, primitive fire starting. Staff and volunteers will also conduct typical children's games from the era.



Dan Zarlenga will present Night Visions in person at Burr Oak Woods on March 12.

Photographing the heavens is his love

Many people may not think of night as the best time to take pictures. But while most photographers are putting their cameras away, Dan Zarlenga is getting his out. He's been in love with the night sky all his life. After becoming interested in photography, it seemed only natural for him to bring the two together. He especially enjoys the challenge of blending earthly and celestial subjects together in the same image.

"The world looks different after the sun goes down . . . unique, mysterious and intriguing. These photographs are a collection of twilight scenes, starscapes, star trails and moonlit landscapes over the most beautiful conservation areas in Missouri, all revealed by the magic of long exposures."

— Dan Zarlenga

Discover Nature Women: Spring Fling

April 29–May 1 • Friday–Sunday
Registration required

(women and girls 14+, girls ages 14–17 must be accompanied by an adult participant)

Join us for an unforgettable women's weekend retreat at Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center learning or brushing up on your outdoor skills. Skills include archery, canoeing and kayaking, map and compass, backpacking and so much more. Call 816-228-3766 for more information and an information/registration form.

Learn the skills needed for a successful wild turkey hunt

Another deer season has come and gone for Missouri hunters, but just around the corner awaits the thrilling pursuit for the eastern wild turkey. This exciting time brings an entirely new set of challenges and questions.

Experienced turkey hunters will be quick



to warn apprentices of the wild turkey's incredible vision and ability to detect movement. Proper preparations, waiting in the right location, proper camouflage and situational awareness

are all critically important to ensure both a successful and safe turkey hunting experience.

Come join our experienced turkey hunters on April 7 at Lake City, April 5 at Parma Woods, and March 26 at Burr Oak Woods, as we discuss some of these topics in detail. We will explain the proper way to scout for turkeys, their behavior and communication, the proper use of different calls and decoys, as well as patterning your shotgun. Set yourself on the way to a successful and safe experience with the 2016 Spring Turkey Hunting Clinic.

— Juan Acosta, Resource Assistant

Passport to Adventure kicks off at Bass Pro

Come on kids! Get your own Passport to Adventure Guide at the kick-off event at the Bass Pro Shop in Independence from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. Discover adventures that await you at local history, science and nature centers right here in metro area. Grab your parents and your "Passport to Adventure" guide and begin your journey to explore Kansas City. Visit a participating site, answer the question in the guide and get excited because you are in store for a great adventure hunt! Those who complete their entire passport adventure will receive a special prize!